

POLICIES FOR ENGLISH 101

I. Course Description and Prerequisites

English 101. English Composition I. 3-3-0. Prerequisites: Initial placement by ACT score of 18 or better, or C or better in ENGL 003, or satisfactory score on departmental placement test. Introduction to expository writing and critical thinking. C or better in English 101 is required for graduation. ENGL 101, a Core Curriculum course, fulfills three hours of general education requirements in the core proficiency skill area of writing.

II. Required Texts

A few reading assignments will be posted on Blackboard. All students are required to print these materials and have them in class when assigned. In addition, students will be required to purchase, rent, or borrow the following and have them in class when assigned:

Ramage, John D., John C. Bean, and June Johnson. The Allyn & Bacon Guide to Writing. 5th ed. Brief edition. New York: Pearson Longman, 2009.
Novel TBA

III. General Education Goals

Graduates will be able to effectively use the English language, writing and speaking with clarity, coherence, and persuasiveness. (For more information, visit www.nicholls.edu/gened/goals_objectives.html.)

IV. Student Outcome Objectives

Students who successfully complete this class will

- use the standard diction, grammar, and mechanics of American English.
- improve, refine, expand the ability to express thoughts in written form.
- apply fundamental strategies such as invention, drafting, revising, editing for their writing projects.
- focus, limit, and organize ideas in coherent essay form.
- prepare for writing assignments in other disciplines.
- use independent, outside research and reading to support their ideas.
- study literature for the purpose of appreciation and to encourage an awareness of cultural diversity and an examination of issues concerning personal values, ethics, and social awareness.
- study and demonstrate methods of critical analysis and argument for the development of analytical and argumentative skills.

V. Materials Needed for Class

- Loose-leaf paper for in-class writing
- Blue or black ink for written assignments
- File Folder

VI. Evaluation

Writing Skills – The main goal of this course is to learn how to write a variety of effective essays incorporating the following composition techniques: exemplification, description, comparison/contrast, classification, division, cause and effect, and persuasion. Your goal is to incorporate into each essay five basic writing skills: focus, development, organization, style, and mechanics/grammar.

A. Major Grades – For five different essay assignments, you will be evaluated in each of the above categories. These major writing assignments will count for 88% of your final grade. Required, minimum essay lengths will vary between 500 and 800 words. Two essays will be written entirely in class. A major portion of all essays will be completed in class under my supervision. *Essays completed entirely out of class will not be accepted unless otherwise indicated.*

You will receive a numerical score on each paper according to the following scale:

90-100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
60-69	D
59 & below	F

B. Daily Grades – In addition to major writing assignments, you will be participating in several other activities that will be evaluated on a 5 to 15 point scale. Novel tests will be worth at least 25 points each. This total will be averaged at the end of the semester and will count for 12% of your final grade. You will receive points for the following:

- Novel tests.
- Pop quizzes or other impromptu writing.
- Pre-writing or Post-reading – For all reading and writing assignments, you will do some activities: brainstorming, outlines, and/or rough drafts. These are evaluated primarily for quantity.
- Class Participation – I expect you to join in class discussions and to participate fully in class exercises.
- Revisions – You will be asked to correct errors, rewrite sentences, or revise larger portions of essays. You will be evaluated on your ability and effort to improve your writing.

This is a tentative weekly schedule of reading and writing for our English 101 class. All readings come from The Allyn & Bacon Guide to Writing (AB), Blackboard (Bb), and the novel. As we move through the semester, I will adjust the schedule according to the pace of our class. I will give you a detailed assignment at the end of each class period. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to check with me or on Blackboard for changes.

AUGUST

- 21 Introductions
Policies
- 23 In-class writing
- 28 Autobiographical Writing, including "Phantom Limb Pain"
pages 170-173; 175-177 (AB)
- 30 "Berkley Blues," pages 574-576 (AB)
"Stolen Watch," pages 576-578 (AB)

SEPTEMBER

- 4 Ellison, "[Battle Royal](#)" (Bb)
Essay 1 Assignment
- 6 Chapter 3-Thinking Rhetorically, pages 60-61 (AB)
Chapter 5-Seeing Rhetorically, pages 111-113 (AB)
Writing workshop
- 11 Grammar review
Writing workshop
- 13 Essay 1 due at the beginning of class
Chapter 9-Writing an Informative Essay, pages 219-20; 225-27 (AB)
- 18 "Behind Stone Walls," pages 231-32 (AB)
In-class writing
- 20 "Coming to America," pages 236-37 (AB)
Chapter 2-Exploring Problems, Making Claims, pages 27-39 (AB)
Essay 2 assignment
- 25 Chapter 9-Writing an Informative Essay, pages 240-44 (AB)
Pre-writing techniques
- 27 Essay 2 to be written in class

OCTOBER

- 2 Essay 2 to be completed in class
- 4 Chapter 11-Analyzing Images, pages 293-94; 297-300; 303-05 (AB)
Advertising Techniques

OCTOBER

- 9 "How Cigarette Advertisers Address the Stigma Against Smoking," pages 320-23 (AB)
Bring in two advertisements
Essay 3 Assignment
- 11 Fall Break
- 16 "Mixing it Up" (Bb)
Writing Workshop

- 18 Writing Workshop
- 23 Peer Review
- 25 Essay 3 due at the beginning of class
Chapter 8-Writing an Exploratory Essay, pages 191-93; 210-212 (AB)
Research Log 1
- 30 Chapter 8-Writing an Exploratory Essay, pages 212-213 (AB)
“[Bigots on the Net](#)” (Bb)
Research Log 2

NOVEMBER

- 1 “[A Future with Nowhere to Hide](#)” (Bb)
“[Big Brother Under Your Skin](#)” (Bb)
Chapter 8-Writing an Exploratory Essay, pages 213-214 (AB)
Essay 4 assignment
- 6 Chapter 22-Using, Citing, and Documenting Sources, pages 661-65 (AB)
Writing workshop
- 8 1984 test (Sections ONE and APPENDIX)
Writing workshop
- 13 Writing workshop
- 15 Essay 4 due at the beginning of class
1984 discussion
- 20 Thanksgiving Holiday
- 22 Thanksgiving Holiday
- 27 1984 test (Sections TWO and THREE)
- 29 Novel discussion and exam preparation

DECEMBER

- 3 In-class exam-Essay 5 (8:00 to 10:00)